

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: American Red Cross Oregon Trail Chapter

Application ID: 13AC145113

Program Name: Oregon State Service Corps

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

- (+) The applicant succinctly describes the need and presents persuasive evidence of its existence by citing a recent study by the American Red Cross demonstrating that there is a wide disparity between the number of Oregonians who have experienced disasters and the number who have received disaster training, as well as research indicating a high likelihood of a near future major disaster (earthquake). Therefore the severity of the need is made very clear, and their proposed solution to the problem logically follows.
- (+) The applicant describes having assessed where the community is currently, using nationally developed tools and measures, and their "theory of change," including expected conclusions that the interventions will have a significant and demonstrable impact.
- (+) The applicant is clear and specific in describing the demonstrable impact of the proposed program to increase resiliency by changing behaviors and improving awareness: 1) training 60,000 individuals (with a goal of 90% demonstrating increased awareness of disaster preparedness, and a goal of 50% taking 1-5 of the most common steps to preparedness); 2) updating disaster plans for 35 organizations; 3) earthquake drills for 47 organizations; 4) capacity building; and 5) leveraging 4,000 volunteers.
- (-) The applicant describes how they will use a model being used for community resiliency that was published in the Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management but does not provide any evidence on the model.
- (-) There is little specificity describing whether or how AmeriCorps members would allow them to provide more or better service than they would by utilizing their existing staff and volunteer base, other than the simple statement that AmeriCorps members would help to expand the reach.
- (-) The applicant did not adequately explain nor provide examples as to how it will be highly effective (as to Members and non-disaster-related services provided) for economic opportunity, education, veteran's services, and healthy futures organizations. The applicant just stated some placement sites will focus on these areas. The applicant did specifically mention that disaster-related services would also be provided to non-disaster related

organizations and provided examples; the applicant did not provide sufficient information about the non-disaster related services and how they related to these organizations.